

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9, 22 – 30, 32 – 41 and 49 – 51 are pending. Claims 1 – 9, 22 – 30, 32 – 41 and 49 – 51 presently stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 22, 23, 26, 27, 49 – 51 have been amended. Claims 9, 30, 32 – 41 have been cancelled.

Examination and reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Rejection

Claims 1 – 9, 22 – 30, 32 – 41 and 49 – 51 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,652,378 (“Cannon”).

Claims 9, 30, 32 – 41 have been cancelled.

Independent claims 1, 22, 49, and 51 have been amended.

Claims 1, 22, 49, and 51, as now amended, are directed to a gaming system displaying a primary game and a bonus indicator. The primary game displays at least a portion of a first set of symbols that are used for determining a primary game outcome, and causes a primary game award based on the primary game outcome. The bonus indicator, on the other hand, displays one or more symbols from a second set of symbols that are used for determining whether a bonus feature is to be activated or not.

Cannon does not anticipate claims 1, 22, 49, and 51.

For example, Cannon does not disclose a primary game that displays symbols that are used for determining a primary game outcome independent from a bonus indicator whose symbols are used for determining whether a bonus feature is to be activated or not.

Rather, Cannon’s bonus game is activated by a winning combination of a primary game having symbols to identify the win. For example, Cannon at best discloses that

certain game outcomes on one or more individual gaming windows
88 may trigger “bonus games” on other individual game windows
88.

See col. 19, lines 48 – 50. Cannon also discloses that

[a] particular outcome or level of winning on one or more games selected for simultaneous, sequential, or random play triggers a microprocessor in gaming machine 70 to activate one or more “bonus” games.

See col. 24, lines 19 – 23. Cannon further discloses that

a specific game outcome in one or more games may trigger one bonus game of each of an electronic reel slot machine, an electronic video poker game, an electronic blackjack game, an electronic keno game.

See col. 24, lines 49 – 52. Thus, a player as disclosed in Cannon is required to win one or more games to enter a bonus feature. That is, the outcome of the primary game is not independent of the bonus indicator.

Therefore, Cannon does not anticipate claims 1, 22, 49, and 51.

Claims 2 – 8, 23 – 29, and 50, which depend from claims 1, 22, or 49, are also not anticipated by Cannon.

It is respectfully submitted that Cannon does not render claims 1, 22, 49, and 51 obvious because Cannon requires a player to win some games to enter a bonus feature, which teaches away from a primary game that displays symbols that are used for determining a primary game outcome independent from a bonus indicator whose symbols are used for determining whether a bonus feature is to be activated or not.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 – 8, 22 – 29, and 49 – 51 are allowable. In the event that the Examiner believes a telephone interview with the undersigned Applicant's Representative would be helpful in advancing prosecution of this patent application, the undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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